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General Assembly

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Committee on Conferences
Organizational session for 2006

Annotated provisional agenda for the organizational session for 2006

1. Adoption of the agenda for the organizational session for 2006.
2. Election of officers.
3. Organization of work for 2006.
4. Programme of work for 2006.
5. Adoption of the agenda for the substantive session of 2006.
6. Other business.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda for the organizational session for 2006

2. Election of officers

Rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that committees other than Main Committees shall elect a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

In past years, the Committee on Conferences has elected, in addition to the Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

At its organizational session for 1989, on 1 March 1989, the Committee agreed in principle that thenceforth the chairmanship would rotate annually among the regional groups.

3. Organization of work for 2006

At its 341st meeting, on 27 August 1992, the Committee decided to maintain its biennial programme of work, dealing with items relating to documentation in even-numbered years and those relating to meetings in odd-numbered years. The Committee also decided that some items would be considered on an annual basis.

At its organizational session for 2005, on 23 March 2005, the Committee adopted its agenda for 2005 and requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2006 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2006.

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In paragraph 4 of its resolution 46/190 A, the General Assembly took note of the guidelines adopted by the Committee with regard to intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings.[1] At its substantive session of 1994, the Committee decided that requests for intersessional departures submitted to the Committee should, in future, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action. At its substantive session of 1995, the Committee decided that requests submitted to it for intersessional departures that involved a change of venue should be referred to the members for approval. Departures that involved other types of changes should, as the Committee had decided at its substantive session of 1994, be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on improving the performance of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (A/57/289, para. 15) in order to administer the programme of meetings to comply strictly with the calendar of conferences and meetings as approved by the Assembly, with the exception of plenary meetings of the Assembly, the Security Council, and the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, ad hoc meeting extensions beyond normal working hours are not accommodated by conference services. Requests for sessions beyond authorized duration, or intersessional "informal consultations" that take the form of additional, unapproved sessions under another name, will be channelled for consideration through the Committee on Conferences in accordance with mandated arrangements. Statements of programme budget implications will be issued in such instances, where required.

Moreover, meetings of the Committee may be required in compliance with paragraph 6 of resolution 35/10 A, by which the General Assembly decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly are to be reviewed by the Committee when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

4. Programme of work for 2006

The terms of reference of the Committee are set forth in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/222 B.

Annexed to the present document is a draft agenda for the substantive session of 2006, followed by annotations, which takes into account the earlier decisions of the Committee and subsequent decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly.

For the 2006 session, reporting on all matters pertaining to the pattern of conferences will be consolidated into one report.

Although the agenda for the substantive session follows the resolutions under the pattern of conferences agenda item, the Committee may wish to organize its work along the lines of the topics listed above.

5. Adoption of the agenda for the substantive session of 2006

6. Other business

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 32* (A/46/32), para. 77.

Annex

Draft agenda for the substantive session of 2006

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:
   - (a) Intersessional departures for 2006 and related matters;
   - (b) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007;
   - (c) Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities:
     - (i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs, and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them;
     - (ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
     - (iii) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;
     - (iv) Improved utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa;
   - (d) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243.
3. Integrated global management/outcome of the work of the task forces.
4. Documentation and publication-related matters:
   - (a) Submission, availability and distribution of documentation;
   - (b) Provision of verbatim and summary records.
5. Translation and interpretation-related matters.
6. Organization of work.
7. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

2. Calendar of conferences and meetings

(a) Intersessional departures for 2006 and related matters

A compilation of such matters will be provided for inclusion in the report of the Committee.

(b) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007

A draft revised calendar for 2007 will be submitted by the Secretariat to the Committee on Conferences at its substantive session of 2006.

The Committee will submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2007.

(c) Improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

(i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs, and consultations with/letters to bodies concerning utilization of the conference services available to them

In section II.A, paragraph 9, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly welcomed the steps taken by those bodies that have adjusted their programme of work in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources and requested the Committee on Conferences to continue consultations with the secretariats and bureaux of bodies that underutilized their conference-servicing resources, in line with what was requested in section II.A, paragraph 2, of resolution 59/265.

(ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

In section II.A, paragraph 4, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly recognized the importance of the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States for the smooth functioning of the sessions of intergovernmental bodies and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that, as far as possible, all requests for conference services for the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States were met. In paragraph 5, the Assembly noted that the percentage of the meetings provided with interpretation services in the period from May 2004 to April 2005 continued to decrease despite the fact that the number of meetings requested to be provided with interpretation had noticeably decreased.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly recalled that meetings held by regional and other major groupings of Member States were provided with interpretation services on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice. In paragraph 7, the Assembly urged intergovernmental bodies to take into account and make provision for those meetings in their programmes of work. In paragraph 8, it noted that improvements in utilization might entail a reduction in the availability of conference services for meetings of regional groups and requested the Secretary-General to explore innovative ways to address that problem and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Committee on Conferences.

(iii) Improved utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

In section II.A, paragraph 10, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly recalled its several resolutions, including resolution 59/265, section II.A, paragraph 8, reaffirmed that in conformity with the headquarters rule, all meetings of Nairobi-based United Nations bodies should be held in Nairobi, except as otherwise authorized by the Assembly or the Committee on Conferences acting on its behalf, and requested the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences.

(iv) Improved utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa

In section II.A, paragraph 12, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts so far undertaken to increase utilization of the conference facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa, in particular the introduction by the Commission of an integrated system for the management of its conferences and for conducting a fact-finding mission to identify best practices at similar conference centres within the United Nations system. In paragraph 13, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the conference centre established and developed linkages with other centres and bodies and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences.

In paragraph 14 of the resolution, the General Assembly noted that strict implementation of the headquarters minimum operating security standards had compelled the Economic Commission for Africa to restrict utilization of its conference centre to organizations of the United Nations family, foreign representatives accredited to Addis Ababa, the African Union, recognized international non-governmental organizations and the Government of Ethiopia. In paragraph 15, it invited the Secretary-General to explore means to increase utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, bearing in mind the headquarters minimum operating security standards, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences.

(d) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

In paragraph 15 of its resolution 47/202 A, the General Assembly demanded that all subsidiary organs of the Assembly comply with the provisions of section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 40/243, in which it had decided that no subsidiary organ of the Assembly would meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly.

In accordance with the procedure established by the Committee at its 1986 session and reaffirmed at its 1992 session, chairpersons of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly that wish to meet at Headquarters during the main part of the Assembly should submit their requests to the Chairperson of the Committee.

3. Integrated global management/outcome of the task forces

In section II.B, paragraph 3, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted the ongoing efforts towards the attainment of integrated global management, recognized the upgrading of the information technology capacity at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and requested the Secretary-General to keep the Assembly apprised of progress made in this regard.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly noted the ongoing efforts towards the establishment of an integrated global management system and requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the outcome of the work of the task forces, through the Committee on Conferences.

4. Documentation and publication-related matters

(a) Submission, availability and distribution of documentation

In section III, paragraph 2 of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted with concern the continued high level of late submission of documentation by author departments, which, in turn, had a negative impact on the functioning of intergovernmental bodies, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-first session, through the Committee on Conferences, on impediments, if any, to achieving full compliance with the 6-week and 10-week rules for the issuance of pre-session documents, including, where appropriate, proposed measures to address such impediments.

In paragraph 6, the General Assembly welcomed the efforts of the interdepartmental task force on documentation in addressing the problem of late issuance of documentation and requested the Secretary-General to consider and develop a clear accountability mechanism in the Secretariat for the submission, processing and issuance of documentation and to present thereon a detailed report to the Committee on Conferences further considering and analysing the issue in order to provide concrete recommendations to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

(b) Provision of verbatim and summary records

In section III, paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly noted some improvement in the issuance of verbatim and summary records, while recognizing that delay in their issuance still existed, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to take appropriate measures to ameliorate the delay in the issuance of verbatim and summary records, with a view to issuing them in a timely manner. The Assembly recalled paragraph 14 of section II.B of its resolution 59/265, and reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to further elaborate on all options, including those set out in paragraphs 59 to 63 of his report A/59/172, in accordance with legislative mandates, and to report on their practical and financial implications to the Assembly at its sixty-first session through the Committee on Conferences. The Assembly recalled paragraph 13 of section II.B of its resolution 59/265, noted paragraphs 57 to 59 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/93 and Corr.1) and decided to revert to this issue in the context of its consideration of that report.

5. Translation and interpretation-related matters

In section IV, paragraph 5, of its resolution 60/236 B, the General Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to address the question of the appropriate level of self-revision that is consistent with quality in all official languages and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-first session.

In section II.B, paragraph 9, the General Assembly recalled paragraph 10 of section II.B of its resolution 59/265 and, in this regard, looked forward to the submission of the proposal for a comprehensive methodology for performance measurement and management from a full-system perspective.

6. **Organization of work**

   In section II.A, paragraph 20, of its resolution 57/283 B, the General Assembly encouraged the Committee on Conferences to keep under continued review the procedures for the participation of observers in the work of the Committee.

7. **Adoption of the report**